The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Winds and waves are always on the side of the ablest navigator.—Gibbon.

WHOLE NO. 1003. | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1930 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary | VOL. 20, NO. 16.

EIGHT INJUNCTIONS ARE BASIS OF WRONGS TO LABOR

The majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee opposes the pending labor injunction relief bill.

One of their reasons is that there are "few" Federal injunctions and that most of these writs issue out of State courts.

This adding-machine argument is illogical. It is the favorite plea of attorneys for employers' associations who ignore principle that may be outraged by one decision.

The Dartmouth College case, in 1819, illustrates this point. Here was a dispute between the president and trustees of a small educational institution in New Hampshire that finally reached the United States Supreme Court.

The decision has become historic and is now used by public utility corporations to hold perpetual franchises.

No decision has been so effective to thwart popular control of these corporations.

Eight particular injunction decisions by the United States Supreme Court in the last 35 years may be of no interest to the Senate Judiciary Committee, but these court orders have stripped organized labor of every constitutional right and has made it possible for the judiciary to smash any strike they elect.

A purely local strike may now be thrown into a Federal court on the plea of one shareholder residing in another State. This was done in the recent New Orleans street car strike when Federal Judge Borah placed Federal deputy marshals on the cars at the request of a New York banking house.

The first of the eight decisions was the Debs case, in which the Supreme Court held that an injunction judge can deny constitutional guarantees to citizens who suspend work.

The Debs case was the first time the Supreme Court held that Federal courts can issue such orders.

In the Bucks Stove and Range case the Supreme Court outlawed freedom of speech and press when profits are interfered with. The court took the same position in the Danbury Hatters case.

In the Tri-Cities case the court again denied free speech and ruled that picketing (permitted under the Clayton law) is unlawful unless directed by the court.

In the Truax case the court held that patronage is property and workers can be enjoined as conspirators if they induce others to withhold their patronage. The same position was taken in the Duplux case.

In the Coronado case the court held that trade unions can be sued for individual acts of members. No other voluntary association is held liable for unauthorized acts of its members.

In the Bedford case the court ruled that union stone cutters can not refuse to handle non-union stone. They must work against their will, as refusal is "an interference with interstate commerce."

When the majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee say "few" Federal injunctions have been issued, they fail to point out that these "few" are the starting point by which every right is taken from organized labor. Under these decisions the Constitution means nothing when employers would smash strikes and drive citizens back to objectionable work conditions.

It seems incredible that ten skilled lawyers in the United States Senate are unaware of this fact and attempt to minimize the unlimited effect of these "few" injunctions.

Labor's Injunction Relief Plan Rejected By Senate Committee

Majority Concedes No Part of Labor's Demands—Fight Will Be Renewed at Next Congress

Washington, June 28.—The Senate Judiciary Committee has made public its negative report on the labor injunction bill.

The majority report was submitted by Senator Steiwer of Oregon, and is approved by Senators Steiwer, Deneen, Gillett, Robinson (Ind.), Waterman, Hastings, Hebert, Overman, King and Stephens.

The minority report, favoring the bill, and submitted by Mr. Norris, chairman of the committee, is also made public. It is approved by Senators Norris, Blaine, Walsh (Mont.), Borah, Caraway, Ashurst, Dill.

The majority report minimizes the effect of the injunction writ in labor disputes and infers that the problem is a State issue. The report concedes no part of labor's claim and insists that even though the present bill were approved, such legislation "can have no effect upon the permanent judgments already entered." This means that injunctions like the Bedford cut stone case can not be touched by legislation.

The "yellow dog" is defended on the ground that it is a contract and is beyond legislative control.

The report includes curious contradictions, such as claims for equality before the law and the statement that "there are many situations in which the even-handed justice of the courts is preferable to executive attempts at law enforcement."

The committee does not explain how "equality before the law" is possible when equity judges are permitted to set aside guarantees and enforce their edicts.

The injunction issue has been before the people for 40 years, but the committee suggests that "an appropriate study" be made of the question. The majority members insist that they are "friendly to labor and to labor unions," but the proposed bill would give rise to "problems much more grievious than those which it seeks to solve." No mention is made of repeated violations of the First Amendment (guaranteeing free speech, press and the right of assembly), and the Thirteenth Amendment (opposing involuntary servitude).

The minority report declares that under existing conditions large employers of labor possess unprecedented power to dictate contracts and conditions of employment.

If a laborer can exercise no control over his conditions of employment, "he is subjected to involuntary servitude," the minority states.

The "yellow dog" is condemned and the proposal to outlaw this practice is strongly urged.

The minority makes this reference to the increasing power of injunction judges:

"It is amazing to realize that in the last 40 years there has developed in the American courts the practice of writing a special law to fit the individual case by judges in issuing labor injunctions; and that thereupon the judge, who himself wrote the law, has undertaken to prescribe the penalty for its violation and to punish the violator without permitting the accused to enjoy a trial by jury. It can not be sucessfully claimed that the courts have not written into these injunction cases a new law of labor disputes, fitting the law to each particular case and then enforcing this new law made by the court."

The minority report challenges the claim of injunction defenders that Congress has no right to interfere with the jurisdiction of Federal courts.

"No one will seriously doubt the right of Congress, under the Constitution, to limit the jurisdiction of Federal courts," says the minority. "The jurisdiction, for instance, of the district courts of the United States is given by acts of Congress. All the courts of the United States, except the Supreme Court, could be abolished by act of Congress, and, while Congress could not give to these inferior courts jurisdiction greater than is provided by the Constitution, it could, on the other hand, within the limits of the Constitution, give to the inferior courts such jurisdiction as Congress in its wisdom deems just. It follows, also, that having given this jurisdiction, it can, by act of Congress, take away all or any part of it."

While the minority report plainly states that no attempt is made to take jurisdiction from the inferior Federal courts to issue labor injunctions the report declares that Congress has that power if it so elects. Several Supreme Court decisions are cited in support of this claim.

EMPLOYERS HOSTILE TO UNION; URGE SPECIAL FREIGHT RATES

Birmingham, Ala., June 28.—Stove manufacturers in this area oppose trade unionism while asking the Interstate Commerce Commission to maintain freight rates to the north that will give them an advantage over manufacturers who recognize the union and pay higher wages.

Efforts to organize stove molders in this vicinity are being resisted. In one case the employer refused to meet a Federal conciliator.

Despite opposition iron molders throughout Alabama are joining the union. They are determined to equalize rates and place them on a parity with Northern rates.

The A. F. of L. Southern organizing campaign committee reports that the unionization of colored workers is making rapid strides. Negroes are anxious to join the trade union movement, although colored clergymen in certain instances are taking the side of the employers. Charges of "subsidy" is made.

The organizing committee is receiving requests to launch labor chautauquas similar to the one recently held in Danville, Va., which was addressed by President Green.

It is pointed out that the average Southern worker—and employers—need to be informed on the aims of organized labor. President Green's speech in Danville has sent a surge of activity into the trade union ranks throughout the South. This is especially true of textile workers in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama. Thousands of new members have been added in these States, organizers report.

COTTON MILL OWNERS FAVOR 55-HOUR WEEK

Asheville, N. C., June 28.—Effect of organized labor's agitation is shown in the 55-hour week declaration by the North Carolina Cotton Manufacturers' Association.

The mill owners, at their convention here, opposed the present 60-hour week and favored prohibition of night work of persons under 18.

Speakers were agreed that the work week must be reduced to "stabilize the industry."

Facing an increased trade union sentiment in this State, the resolution declared that the Cotton Manufacturers' Association "has from its inception been vitally interested in the moral, social and economic development of the industry and especially of its employes."

LABOR PLANS RUINED DECLARED WAGNER

Washington, June 28.—"Petty politics" is responsible for defeat in the House of three unemployment bills, said Senator Wagner, author of the measures that were approved by the Senate.

The bills provide for long-range planning of public works, compilation of unemployment data by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics and establishment of a national system of employment agencies. The latter proposal was opposed by the anti-union National Association of Manufacturers.

Senator Wagner charged the White House with being responsible for failure of the bills to pass.

"In the face of an unemployment crisis rivaling any in our history, in the face of a business collapse," said the New York Senator, "the President still refuses to permit Congress to provide the necessary machinery for the prevention of such disasters in the future."

After referring to the House policy of sidetracking and emasculating the bills, Senator Wagner said "the bills are empty shells and are destroyed as effectively as if they were vetoed."

MOB PARADES FUTILE, COMMUNISTS CONFESS

New York, June 28.—Occasional outbursts of the masses will not bring on the revolution, the central committee of the Communist Party reported to the "red" convention in this city.

This evil of reliance on the value of these outbursts must be corrected, the committee said. The remedy is, "Into the shops."

Recent leaders of the "party" have been expelled because they failed "to make the turn in policy required by the growing crisis of world capitalism and the concurrent radicalism of the masses."

The "party" is in need of additional purging, according to the committee, which states that the "party" has not "completely made the turn in methods and tactics."

These methods are figured out in Moscow, and if they are not followed the bank roll will be closed.

IDLE BILLS KNIFED, LA GUARDIA ASSERTS

Washington, June 28.—The Wagner unemployment bills were destroyed by the House Judiciary Committee, declared Congressman La Guardia, a member of the committee, in a minority report.

"It is discouraging to be compelled to observe the insufficient thought and practically no action taken by Congress to meet the unemployment situation," said Mr. La Guardia. "There can be no reason for Congress to fail to act on the national employment bill. While I admit that these bills in and of themselves will not solve the problem, they are the necessary steps to an effective and constructive solution of our unemployment problem. There is nothing before Congress of greater importance."

PENSION PLAN VOIDED BY TRICKY DECISION

Cheyenne, Wyo., June 28.—The old-age pension law of this State has been voided by Attorney General Wilson's decision that the act is a "voluntary" one, and that it "may" be enforced by county commissioners.

The State Association of County Commissioners, last fall, set themselves above the people and refused to enforce the act.

Organized labor will carry the fight into this Fall's campaign and will elect legislators who favor enforcing the popular will.

GRAND JURY SUGGESTS LAWYERLESS COURTS

Augusta, Ga., June 28.—A lawyerless court in which defendants will plead their own civil cases involving amounts up to $25 is suggested by the Richmond county grand jury.

The grand jury urged that minor civil cases be tried in a court with a salaried judge to hear them, and plantiffs be required to deposit a court cost of $1 before the case would be heard. That would be the only cost and no lawyers would be permitted.

NEW YORK OUT-OF-WORKS WILL TOTAL 400,000

New York, June 28.—The Federal census of this city will reveal an unemployed population of 400,000, if the ratio of jobless in the twenty-third census district continues throughout the city, according to an estimate by Edward F. Corsi, supervisor of the district.

CONGRESS HAS DODGED OUT-OF-WORK PROBLEM

—Wm. Green, President A. F. of L.

Washington, June 28.—"The present Congress is a failure in constructively dealing with the problem of unemployment," declared Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., after learning that the House Judiciary Committee referred Senator Wagner's employment agency bill to a subcommittee and had emasculated the bill providing for long range planning of public works.

"It is amazing," said Mr. Green, "that Congress, meeting at a time when the Nation is suffering from the effects of a long period of unemployment, would fail to do something constructive which, in effect, would be a partial remedy for the distressing situation.

"Congress is not even making a legislative gesture toward the problem of unemployment.

"If the Wagner bills fail, as it now appears they will fail, no single piece of legislation can be referred to as being considered and acted upon by the present session of Congress relating to the problem of unemployment. This is expecially tragic when we consider that Congress has been in session for almost one year during a period of unemployment that has been serious in its effect and widespread in its application."

"YELLOW DOG" TALKS PUBLISHED BY A. F. L.

Washington, June 28.—Senate debates on the "yellow dog" when Judge Parker's nomination to the Supreme Court was being considered in the Senate, have been printed in pamphlet form and are being distributed by the A. F. of L.

"This pamphlet ought to be useful to speakers in the coming election campaigns," said President Green, who declares the debates were the "most brilliant discussion of the 'yellow dog' contract that ever occurred.

"Senators who took part in this debate contributed a wealth of legal information bearing upon this individual contract. On no other occasion has there been such thorough discussion of the issue."

President Green announces that copies of the pamphlet may be secured.

MANY TEXTILE ABUSES UNCOVERED BY PROBE

New York, June 28.—Textile employers are accepting the charge often made against this industry by the United Textile Workers.

These unionists have repeatedly declared that a living wage and decent working conditions are possible if many evils were corrected.

The employers recently organized the Council of Textile Association Executives and replies from a questionnaire show "an astounding number of textile abuses and problems that require the attention of the industry as a whole."

BAKERS ADVANCE

Spokane, Wash., June 28.—Organized bakers signed a three-year agreement with employers.

Coal Owners Accept Miners' Theory; Wrecked Industry Compelled Change

Charleston, W. Va., June 28.—The anti-union Consolidation Coal Company has again reduced wages and paints a tragic picture of conditions in this industry because of wage-slashing and cut-throat competition.

The company says: "We have seen much of our Fairmont-Pittsburgh competition to lower and lower levels in wages and in prices, to lower standards of living for labor and to lower standards of business for capital; seeking to solve excess capacity by more and more output, deficient income by less and less revenue; trying to repair damaged profits by larger patches of loss. Merciless buying may explain but does not excuse business methods of this kind."

This corporation was a leader in the movement six years ago to smash the Jacksonville wage agreement that was declared "uneconomic." The United Mine Workers of America stood alone in its protest against low wages and unbridled output.

Every prediction by these unionists has been verified, as shown in the Consolidation Coal Company's whimpering plea that the practices of coal owners has wrecked the industry.

Van A. Bittner, representative United Mine Workers, urges these workers to organize and stop starvation.

"Read every word of the Consolidation statement," he says, in a stirring plea for the miners to unite.

"Analyze that statement," said Bittner. "You will rub your eyes in amazement and wonder if you are reading the statement delivered by President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers to the Senate of the United States at the recent coal hearings. It sounds like the report of the president of the miners to an international convention of the United Mine Workers of America—and why shouldn't it? Facts are facts, and the officers of the Miners' Union saw what was coming six years ago. The coal operators can not do else than subscribe to our philosophy."

SENATORS ARE MUDDLED

In opposing the injunction relief bill, pending in the Senate, the majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee says:

"The doctrine of equality before the law and equal protection of the laws ought not to be departed from to the injury of any portion of the people of the Republic."

That is the argument of trade unionists in their fight against injunctions.

How can these Senators talk of "equality before the law" when they favor injunctions to enforce law?

There is no equality in an injunction court. The purpose of labor injunction is to destroy that equality.

An injunction judge does not recognize the Constitution. He issues any order he elects and then punishes for contempt if such order is violated. He is "law" maker, judge and executioner.

He has classed good will and patronage as "property" and fines or jails any one who interferes with such "property"—even though the person is doing a lawful act, such as strikers appealing for public opinion.

Free speech, free press, the right of public assemblage and opposition to involuntary servitude are constitutional provisions that the equity judge sets aside.

These can not be ignored in a law court. That is why employers favor injunction courts.

It is ridiculous to favor equity (injunctions) and at the same time talk of equality before the law. These are contradictions.

Government by law is the American theory. One-man government is Fascism.

SWEAT SHOP MUST GO IS WORKERS' RESOLVE

Baltimore, June 28.—"Free men and women can not exist where sweat shops thrive," declared Benjamin Schlesinger, president International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, at a mass meeting in this city.

"The sweat shop worker strikes; he has nothing to lose, but the employer overlooks an opportunity to build up the industry," said Mr. Schlesinger. "A 70-hour week and wages as low as $10 and $12 a week for women, who are employed in this highly seasonal industry of 34 to 35 weeks a year must be driven out of Baltimore."

The international union has been aiding the local to perfect its organization and the mass meeting was preparatory to inviting employers to a conference where improved conditions will be discussed.

Other speakers included A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison, General Secretary-Treasurer David Dubinsky of the Garment Workers' International, and Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L.

The speakers scored deplorable conditions in this city's cloak industry, and inisisted that the workers' only hope is through organization.

"These employers will try to scare you, as they always do, but it is our experience that when we perfect a 100 per cent union the employer will quickly agree to a conference," said Secretary Dubinsky. The unionist said other cities had the same grim record as Baltimore until the union forced a change.

TALK, BUT NO ACTION, ON IDLENESS ISSUE

New York, June 28.—Resentment against the House for failure to act on Senator Wagner's three unemployment bills was expressed by students of this question in this city.

Miss Frances Perkins, State Industrial Commissioner, said it was especially deplorable that the bill to establish a national system of employment bureaus was not passed.

Ernest G. Draper, member Governor Roosevelt's Committee on the Stabilization of Employment, said:

"Nothing has been done on the subject of unemployment after 25 years of researching. Here is an opportunity to do something tangible for the unemployment situation. It is tragic to find that after such extended discussions of the unemployment situation we are now where we were before the bills were introduced."

MINERS' WAGE PARLEY TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK

New York, June 28.—Anthracite miners and coal owners will hold their wage conference in this city. The existing wage agreement, negotiated after a six-months' strike, will expire on August 31.

The miners' representatives are under instructions from the recent Hazelton (Pa.) convention to obtain the most satisfactory agreement possible "on the basis of no reduction in wages."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Salisbury, N. C., June 28.—The annual convention of the North Carolina Federation of Labor will open here Monday, August 11.

The Southern organizing campaign and workmen's compensation will be leading issues.

'PINOS ARE "RELIABLE" SAYS OREGON BANKER

Portland, Ore., June 28.—A local banker is backing the colonization of Filipinos on Columbia county truck farms.

Filipinos, the banker says, are "more reliable," and that he is impelled by lofty ideals in importing these Far-Easterners who are "students."

Editor Rynerson of the Oregon Labor Press calls on the banker to "cut out his bunk."

"You are hiring Filipinos for the same reason that a lot of other people are doing it—because they are cheap and docile," says the labor editor.

"When you say they are 'more reliable,' you mean that they will sleep in cheap, make-shift bunk houses, submit to being herded into a corral at night like slaves, submit to being under the eyes of an armed guard at all times, wait till the end of the season for their pay and never object to conditions imposed by you."

WRONG RAILROAD NAMED

The Texas & New Orleans Railroad was involved in court proceedings with the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, because of the former's violation of that section of the Railway Labor Law which calls on railroads to recognize representatives of workers who are elected by these employes.

This publication, in a recent reference to this case, erroneously stated that the Texas & Pacific Railroad was involved.

WORK IN MARYLAND DROPS

Baltimore, June 28.—An employment decrease of 1.4 per cent and of 2.2 per cent in combined pay rolls in selected manufacturing industries in this State from April to May is reported by the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

STREET CAR MEN GAIN

Portland, Ore., June 28.—Street car men in this city secured a compromise wage increase through arbitration. Platform men are advanced $5 to $8 a month and a $4 monthly increase was granted shopmen, trackmen and other employes.

Business Men Ignore Economic Facts; Low Wage Pleaders Scored By Editor

Akron, Ohio, June 28.—Bankers and business men who suggest wage reductions were scored by the Akron Beacon Journal in a sizzling editorial. The banker is declared "by training and sometimes by nature, a glorified pawnbroker."

This city is the center of the Nation's rubber industry, and exploitation of these employes has lowered their purchasing power and affected small business men.

"The manufacturer we place upon a somewhat higher plane than the banker," says the editor. "He has shown himself willing to move with the world instead of living under three balls.

"We have never felt an overwhelming awe of the super-intelligence of either the captains of industry or of the banker.

"The man who today gets less wages than he did yesterday, buys less of the world's goods. If overproduction has caused most of our present troubles we shall add to it a degree of underconsumption that is bound to increase the very evils we are trying to cure. It is a self-evident proposition, of course, that 200 wage earners at $2.50 a day are worth no more to stores and banks than 100 at $5.

"In Akron something occurred which was a lot more humorous than any of the comic strips. The great rubber companies, in justifying a tire cut of 5 per cent, said they did so to meet the competition of the mail order houses, which, by the way, they had set up in business by selling them tires at a very little profit. Of course, it may be good business to make and sell things at a price that our customers can go into competition with us, but our guess is that such a reduction is not going to create any appreciable factory demand at a price that will pay dividends.

"This case is not exclusive, but symptomatic of a situation which is general. If the manufacturer will tackle his job with the same fine energy and intelligence that have made him the wonder of the world, and if the bankers can get over the idea that society does not need them as note shavers, but that their function is a creative one to build rather than to foreclose mortgages, there will be no necessity to deflate wages, which would produce a greater disaster to the country than a dozen stock market collapses."

LOW WAGES CAN'T BUY NATION'S BIG OUTPUT

Philadelphia, June 28.—"Even a novice in economics can understand why we are in a business depression," said Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative A. F. of L., in an address to the convention of American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

Mr. McGrady quoted United States census figures to show that the 1927 value of manufactured products in the United States totaled $62,718,000,000. The value of agricultural products was $9,740,000,000. This was a grand total of $72,450,000,000.

Wage workers, during that year, were paid $32,325,000,000, and salaries to executive and office staffs amounted to $17,823,000,000, making a total of $50,058,000,000.

"The workers and executives of the nation, therefore, are unable to buy $22,400,000,000 worth of goods," said Mr. McGrady. "The solution is to increase wages of the workers so that their purchasing power will be increased enough to buy the difference shown. Any amateur economist can figure this out."

The A. F. of L. representative said that old age pensions in every State—"probably assisted by the Federal Government"—is inevitable.

"Employers will not employ workers over 40, and since they are discarding human beings for machinery, an old-age pension system is certain," he said.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Columbus, Ohio, June 28.—Officers of the Ohio Federation of Labor issued a call for the annual convention, to be held in this city beginning Monday, August 18

Among the more important questions are the labor injunction, unemployment, the "yellow dog," State constabulary, old-age pension and continued violation of the eight-hour law on public works.

WATER POWER WASTED; PRIVATE GREED BLAMED

Washington, June 28.—The mayor and city council of Muscle Shoals have again appealed to the Secretary of War to sell them surplus power which continues to go to waste over Wilson dam at Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River.

The little Alabama town has made several efforts to secure this power.

Senator Black of Alabama charged on the floor of the Senate that the citizens of Muscle Shoals are blocked by the Alabama Power Company, a unit of the power trust.

"The Alabama Power Company is buying only about one-fifth of the power and the remainder is going to waste," said Mr. Black. "The Government is not getting a dime for it. The town of Muscle Shoals, which is immediately adjacent to the dam, requested several years ago and sent a delegation to the War Department for the purpose of buying some of the surplus power which was going to waste. The Alabama Power Company declines to buy this power.

"This municipality has offered to buy it. It has even offered to pay more than the company is paying. It has offered to buy it on the same kind of contract. It has offered to purchase it with a 30-day cancellable clause.

"There is only one reason why it is not sold. The power companies object to a precedent being established by the Government selling any of this power. This power is wasted for one reason—that is, the great influence of the power companies of America."

INCENTIVE WAGE PLAN NEW SPEED-UP SYSTEM

New York, June 28.—"Incentive" wage payments is the new speed-up system that is proving successful, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, representing a score of anti-union employers' associations.

Rates are based on the output of the group, each member being a driving force to speed up associates.

The system can only work in large production plants, and is not applicable to small plants. Clerical and office work does not generally lend itself to the scheme, the board states.

Output under this plan, has been raised from 10 to 400 per cent. Earnings of labor increased from 10 to 100 per cent. The higher earnings are one-fourth less than the output. Unit costs have been cut from 10 to 50 per cent.

LABOR CONSTITUTION TO BE WRITTEN BY 13

Washington, June 28.—The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, by a referendum vote of 39,581 to 5,405, favored revision of the constitution by a committee of 11, appointed by President Broach, together with Mr. Broach and International Secretary Bugniazet.

Changes in the constitution will "go into full force and effect—after the committee has finished its work—upon notice to the local unions."